

Committee Name:

**Assembly Committee – Rural Affairs and Forestry
(AC–RAF)**

Appointments

01hr_AC–RAF_Appt_pt00

Committee Hearings

01hr_AC–RAF_CH_pt00

Committee Reports

01hr_AC–RAF_CR_pt00

Clearinghouse Rules

01hr_AC–RAF_CRule_01–

Executive Sessions

01hr_AC–RAF_ES_pt00

Hearing Records

01hr_ab0695 a

01hr_sb0000

Misc.

01hr_AC–RAF__Misc__pt00

Record of Committee Proceedings

01hr_AC–RAF_RCP_pt00

01-10-02 PH AB 375, AB 600, AB 644
— & ~~LRB 4244~~ & 4281 - Exec. AJR 51
AB 695 AB 696 AB 600

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Date: January 10, 2002 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 300 NE - State Capitol

Committee Member

Rep. John Ainsworth, Chair

Rep. Donald Friske

Rep. Stephen Freese

Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz

Rep. Tom Sykora

Rep. Barbara Gronemus

Rep. Mary Hubler

Rep. Marlin Schneider

Present

Absent

Excused

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Totals:

7

1

Kristina Boardman

Kristina Boardman, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Date: January 10, 2002 Meeting Type: Executive Session
Location: 300 NE - State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. John Ainsworth, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donald Friske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mary Hubler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>

Kristina Boardman
Kristina Boardman, Committee Clerk

AB 695

Ernie - in favor

Paul DeLong - in favor

Willard Kiefer - in favor

Ray Guries - Soc. of American Foresters

in favor

Colette Matthews - WCEA

in favor

Marie Stewart - WI Science Professionals

in favor

↳ would like the degree definition broadened

PMC

OK

MEMORANDUM

To: Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry Members

From: Chairperson John Ainsworth

Date: January 3, 2002

Re: January 10th Public Hearing and Executive Session

Please find attached an amended hearing notice for the January 10th Rural Affairs and Forestry committee meeting. The notice has been amended to include the bill numbers for LRB 4244 (AB 695) and LRB 4281 (AB 696).

Also attached is a copy of an Assembly Substitute Amendment to 2001 Assembly Joint Resolution 51. This substitute amendment will be considered in the executive session following the public hearing. The substitute amendment has been drafted to reflect the updated needs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. As discussed at the April 19, 2001 public hearing, this substitute amendment requests funding for salvaging lumber at Badger Army Ammunition Plant, rather than the previously requested research funding.

If you have any additional questions regarding this upcoming committee meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Committee Clerk Kristina Boardman at 266-3097.

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Society of American Foresters—Wisconsin Chapter Testimony

Raymond P. Guries, Chair

Legislation and Policy Committee

and Professor of Forestry

University of Wisconsin-Madison

January 10, 2002

Dear Representative Ainsworth and Committee Members:

My name is Raymond Guries. I am a professor of forestry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am also a member of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. The Society of American Foresters represents more than 500 professional foresters helping to manage the more than 15 million acres of Wisconsin's forestlands.

Our Wisconsin chapter supports AB 695 relating to proposed educational requirements for foresters employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This legislation would standardize the requirements for foresters employed by or contracting with the Department to provide services for private forest landowners. At present, administrative codes NR1.21(2)(e) and NR47.70(2)(e) require that county forest administrators and cooperating private forestry consultants contracting with the Department must hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a university of college with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters. However, the Department is prohibited by Wisconsin Statutes section 230.14(3m) from applying the same requirements for their own foresters because forestry in Wisconsin is not a licensed profession.

Our Wisconsin Chapter members support the position that professional foresters are best qualified to make recommendations regarding forest resources management. The public expects Department foresters, or those working as foresters on behalf of the Department, possess the requisite skills and training to make recommendations regarding the long-term health and productivity of Wisconsin's forest resources. This legislation would ensure that management recommendations provided on behalf of the Department meet the public's expectations for sound forestry advice and guidance from a staff of professional resource managers.

We do have one modest suggestion regarding language in AB 695. The proposed language currently reads, "...shall have received a bachelor's or higher degree from a school of forestry with a curriculum accredited by the society of American foresters in the management of forest resources." We believe a wording of "...shall have received a bachelor's or higher degree in the management of forest resources from a school of forestry with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters." would be more precise. Many schools of forestry have multiple degree programs, some of which are not accredited by the Society, in areas such as recreation, wildlife ecology and horticulture. A literal reading of the proposed language would suggest that graduates in these and related areas could also be hired by the Department to work as foresters. We believe the important stipulation is that the degree be in forest resources management from an accredited school.

We note that at least 10 colleges or universities in Wisconsin or nearby states offer degrees in forest resources management accredited by the Society of American Foresters. These schools provide an excellent pool of potential employees from which the Department could draw in hiring new foresters. Thus, we do not believe this legislation will pose a hardship to the department in terms of finding well-qualified applicants. In fact, we believe this requirement would enhance the professional reputation of the Department's forestry staff. Thank you.



Association of Consulting Foresters, Inc.

Wisconsin Chapter

January 6, 2002

The Honorable John Ainsworth, Chairman
Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry
PO Box 8952
PM 302N State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Ainsworth;

The Wisconsin Chapter of The Association of Consulting Foresters, Inc. go record in support of AB 695, which requires every forester who is employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) to have a bachelor's or higher degree from a Society of American Foresters accredited school in forest management.

DNR foresters are responsible for providing management advice and initiating forest management prescriptions as well as educating private landowners throughout Wisconsin about managing their woods. DNR foresters who provide this management advice should be basing their recommendations on scientifically based forest management principles, which are emphasized in baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs.

Wisconsin is nationally recognized as a very progressive State in natural resource management. We need to continue this progressiveness given today's reliance on natural resources by having professionals managing Wisconsin's valuable resource for the next generation.

Consulting foresters who wish to become part of the WI - DNR Cooperating foresters program are required to have a degree in forestry. It only seems appropriate that all DNR foresters also have a degree in forestry since they are responsible for overseeing the success of this program.

Please share this letter with your committee and place it in the record of your hearing on AB 695. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 608/ 233-1256. Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Brooks, ACF
President, Wisconsin Association of Consulting Foresters, Inc.

"When managing timberland counts — Count on an ACF Forester"

Cable WI
Jan 7 - 2002

John Ainsworth
State Capital Rm. 309 N.
P.O. Box 8952
Madison WI. 53708

ARB 695

R.E. LRB-4244/3

Dear Sir

As Vice Chairman of The N.W. chapter
of W.W.O.A. consisting of about 70 landowners
in the northern part of the State and a landowner
myself I wish to express our support of
Assembly bill L.R.B.- 4244/3.

We believe our forests need professional care
and want the most qualified people assisting us
on our land.

Thank you

Karl Ludzack

Karl Ludzack

Box 392

Cable WI 521821

January 8, 2002

Representative John Ainsworth
Chairmen, Rural Affairs & Forestry Committee
State Capitol Rm 309N
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chairman Ainsworth:

AB 695

I am providing my support for Assembly Bill LRB - 4244/2 that amends 28.05(1) and creates 28.045 relating to the educational requirements for foresters employed by Department of Natural Resources and persons authorized to designate trees for cutting in state forests.

I am Willard Kiefer. I reside at 7784 S County Rd S, Lake Nebagamon, WI 54849, Douglas County. I am a member of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association and a charter member of the Northwest Chapter, WWOA.

I believe it is extremely important Wisconsin's forest land management be directed by qualified foresters who have the appropriate professional training, experience and continuing education. The public has come to expect that persons identified as foresters have the education and experience to qualify as professional foresters as defined by the Society of American Foresters. This revision and addition to the statutes meets that need to insure to the public that those identified as "foresters" meet these professional qualifications.

Since I am unable attend the hearing scheduled on Thursday, January 10th, I request this letter be submitted to this hearing as my testimony for support of this proposal requiring foresters employed by the State of Wisconsin have the appropriate professional education.

Sincerely,



Willard Kiefer
7784 S County Rd S
Lake Nebagamon, WI 54849
715-374-3544



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Reply to: 241 Shore Acres Drive
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494
715/423-7550
Fax: 715/423-7550

Dan Meyer
Chairman
Wisconsin Rapids

William "Butch" Johnson
Vice Chairman
Hayward

John Ahl
Black River Falls

Miles Benson
Wisconsin Rapids

Sen. Roger M. Breske
Eland

Leon Church
Appleton

Richard Connor
Long Lake

Gene Francisco
Madison

Rep. John Gard
Peshtigo

Robert Govett
Stevens Point

Steve Guthrie
Minocqua

Byron Hawkins
Bangor

Richard Hall
Oshkosh

James Holperin
Eagle River

Rachel Jordan
Dodgeville

Tim Laatsch
Wisconsin Rapids

Nick Moncel
Eau Claire

Cathy Nordine
Land O'Lakes

Thomas Schmidt
Neenah

Eugene Schmit
Tomahawk

Rep. Lorraine Seratti
Spread Eagle

Robert Skiera
Milwaukee

The Honorable John Ainsworth, Chairman
Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry
PO Box 8952
RM 302N, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

January 8, 2002

Dear Representative Ainsworth:

The Governor's Council on Forestry would like to go on record in support of AB 695 relating to educational requirements for foresters employed by the Department of Natural Resources.

State agency hiring is governed by Wisconsin Statutes (Section 230.14) which prohibit state agencies from requiring a college degree as a condition of application unless the statutes require a license to practice a profession and a degree is a condition of the license. Forestry is not a licensed profession in Wisconsin and therefore, the Department of Natural Resources cannot require applicants for forester positions to hold a college degree in forestry.

On the other hand, the Department of Natural Resources administrative codes NR 1.21(2)(e) and NR 47.70(2)(e) require that County Forest Administrators funded by the County Forest Administrator Grant program and Cooperating Consultant Foresters entering into agreements with the Department must hold a bachelor of science degree or greater in forestry from a university or college with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

This bill will require that the Department be held to the same hiring standards for Department foresters that are required of county and private foresters that work with the Department.

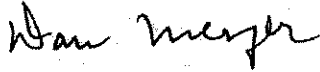
Requiring a forestry degree will save the Department time in screening the applicant list for qualified candidates and reduce the amount of training cost required before a new forester can be placed in a permanent field assignment.

Forestry schools in Wisconsin and neighboring states in the mid-west produce a good supply of quality forestry graduates annually to meet the needs of the forestry profession in this region. It seems only logical that state government would take advantage of these top-rated schools' forestry graduates.

Representative Ainsworth
Page 2

Please share this letter with your committee and place it in the record of your hearing on Assembly Bill 695. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Meyer
Chairman

Cc: Governor's Council on Forestry



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Scott McCallum, Governor
Darrell Bazzell, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY 608-267-6897

Assembly Bill 695

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs & Forestry

Department of Natural Resources Testimony
Paul DeLong, Deputy Administrator
Division of Forestry
January 10, 2002

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. My name is Paul DeLong and I am the Deputy Division Administrator of the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you to discuss AB 695.

The Department of Natural Resources strongly supports AB 695. The bill requires future foresters hired by DNR to have received a bachelor's or higher degree in forestry from a school of forestry with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters or an equivalent degree from a school located in another country. The bill also requires that on state forests, marking of timber must be done either by a DNR forester or an individual who DNR determines to be qualified and who is under the supervision of a DNR forester.

This bill is the outgrowth of concerns expressed within the forestry community that a double standard exists with respect to the requirements for hiring foresters by the Department of Natural Resources and by partner organizations. This bill is designed to create consistency and ensure that there is public confidence in Department foresters.

State agency hiring is governed by Wisconsin Statutes (Section 230.14) which prohibits state agencies from requiring a college degree as a condition of application unless the statutes require a license to practice a profession and a degree is a condition of the license. Forestry is not a licensed profession in Wisconsin and therefore the DNR cannot require applicants for forester positions to hold a college degree in forestry. Department legal counsel have advised us that if passed into law, AB 695 would supercede the existing statute.

However, DNR administrative codes NR 1.21(2)(e) and NR 47.70(2)(e) require that Cooperating Consultant Foresters entering into agreements with the department and County Forest Administrators funded by the County Forest Administrator Grant program must hold a bachelor of science degree or greater in forestry from a university or college with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

The rationale for the difference has been that the degree requirement is the most efficient way to ensure that qualified foresters serve in the capacity of County Forest Administrator or Cooperating Consulting Forester.

In the case of the Department, foresters are hired through a very competitive process and spend 18 months on probation, including 12 months of intensive training and mentoring by

senior foresters with the Department. The Department ensures that our foresters are qualified to do the job they are hired for. The Department's support for this legislation should not be interpreted as a belief that we have foresters in our employment who, because they do not have a four-year degree in forestry, are unable to perform their jobs in a satisfactory manner.

Rather, the Department's support for the legislation is based on the fact that it will address the appearance of a double standard and put us on more solid ground when we take issue with individuals who call themselves "consulting foresters" but who in reality do not have the necessary background or training to perform the functions of a forester. Although these individuals can not become Cooperating Consulting Foresters under NR 1.21, there is nothing that prohibits them from hanging out a shingle and calling themselves a "consulting forester". The Department, along with many of our partners in the forestry community, strongly condemn this practice and the adverse impact it has on private landowners who are taken advantage of by individuals who mislead them with respect to their credentials.

In addition, if AB 695 becomes law, the Department will be able to more efficiently conduct an initial screen of candidates for our positions. There are plenty of quality graduates from schools accredited by the Society of American Foresters in Wisconsin, the Midwest and nationwide.

Furthermore, the Department will commit to working with Forestry Technicians on our staff who are interested in becoming professional foresters but who lack the degree. We will work with them to develop a career plan and support their efforts to obtain the necessary degree from one of the two excellent universities in Wisconsin that have forestry programs accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

The DNR is a leader in promoting professional excellence in the forestry profession in Wisconsin and in advocating that private landowners obtain professional assistance when managing their forest land. Unfortunately, the current situation has created a perception that the Department holds itself to one standard, as required by current law, and that others are held to a different standard. AB 695 will eliminate this perception.

There is one minor change that the Department requests the Committee make to the bill. Under 28.05 (1), the proposed language states that trees shall be marked by a forester or "an individual...under the supervision of a forester". Our legal staff believes the term "supervision" might be interpreted to imply that a supervisor as defined in Wis. Stats. 111.81 (19). In many cases, the "supervision" being mandated in this section is most appropriately done by a DNR forester that often is not a supervisor as defined in s. 111.81 (19). Therefore, the Department recommends that the word "supervision" be replaced by the word "oversight". This will facilitate oversight by the most appropriate individual, regardless of whether he or she is a classified supervisor.

The Department urges this Committee to support AB 695 with this minor change and advocate its passage by the Legislature.

I appreciate this opportunity to express the Department's support for AB 695 and would be glad to answer any questions you might have.